

Maryland Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

DRAFT Meeting Minutes: 09/11/2012, 9am-Noon, MDOT HQ



Present:

Carl Bailey, Ann Black, Marian Bland, Dakota Burgess, Cheri Dowling, Shane Feldman, Kathleen Heck, Jack rouse, Lisa Jordan, Lisa Kornberg, Julie Schafer, Sam Lenox

Round Table Introductions

Item: Wrap-up information from a meeting last month between the new Chair, Shane Feldman, and Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) Executive Staff, Lisa Kornberg and Julie Schafer at their office in Baltimore. The history of the council, including how things have been done in the past, was discussed at length as well as new goals to be set for the upcoming year. In the past, the council has met from 11am to 2pm hoping to allow those with children to take care of logistics. However, we are thinking it would be more productive to try the meeting 'first thing' in the morning – 9am to Noon. We are open to discussion on this as traffic is obviously needing to be considered depending on the specific meeting location. Further, with regard to some procedural changes, the agenda for this meeting is admittedly “vanilla” and quite generic. There is a goal that, for upcoming meetings, the agenda will become much more specific to the projects of the council and the individual subcommittees. One example for a more specific agenda will be the inclusion of guest-speakers at these meetings. We want to have topics presented to us and engage in a learning process that is applicable to our goals and projects. In fact, we were supposed to have a guest-presenter today, but scheduling conflicts arose. Some proposals for possible guests include representatives from the Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD), the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) and the Helen Keller Center. Each subcommittee and each council member will be encouraged to bring ideas for future agenda items as well.

Approval for Meeting Minutes: Delayed in hopes of a quorum with some late arrivals.

Item: Goals for the upcoming year / Subcommittees – Shane Feldman is excited to lead the council as the new Chair and work with our new Vice Chair, Stacey Farone. We hope to take on as many activities and projects as we can and refine the subcommittee reporting process as part of the aforementioned procedural changes. There are three subcommittees: Communications Access, Behavioral Health, and Education. We are including some time today (around 30 minutes) for the three subcommittees to meet and formulate new goals – perhaps three new goals each. With Shane stepping up as the new Council Chair, we want to acknowledge the new Communications Access Subcommittee Chair, Lisa Jordan. Thanks to Lisa for taking on this new and exciting role. Also, many thanks to Carl Bailey for his service as Chair of the Behavioral Health Subcommittee. Carl has stepped down and Lisa Kornberg will help facilitate finding a new Chair for that subcommittee. As an acknowledgement of Council Membership – we want to acknowledge two council terms that are coming to an end. This will be the last meeting for Marian Bland from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and also for Gary Monroe of the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR). The council appreciates the time and effort they have put in to working with us and addressing our issues. We hope that the end of the “official” terms won't mean the end of their involvement. With these two vacancies, we / ODHH will coordinate with the Secretaries of those departments to get new appointed council members.

Item: Departmental Reporting to/for the Council: This turnover in council membership brings up the topic of getting reports from each department and how we can refine that process. It is our new goal to have each council member representing state agencies/departments to get information and quarterly statistics about interactions involving community members with hearing loss. Because of the vast variety of information offered by council members in prior reports, it is suggested that Shane Feldman and Lisa Kornberg develop a “template” or outline for these new reports and deliver this template of requirements directly to the Dept. Secretaries. Reports should include items such as: interpreter requests / access issues / who, what, when, where, why, and how / captioning issues, etc. With the template, a cover letter from Lisa Kornberg to each Secretary introducing Shane as the new Chair and taking that opportunity to expand on the goals of the Council. This information might help the council members gain the appropriate access to the desired information from their department and smooth out any issues that could arise. We have set a goal to have this new report template and cover letter developed and delivered to you and your Secretaries within the next month. Expect email communication on the progress of this process.

Once this reporting template is defined clearly, the report will be required from council members in written form and emailed to the council (via ODHH) no later than two-weeks prior to the next meeting. This will give us all time to review the information and develop an agenda / topics for discussion / and questions.

Individual Subcommittee Meetings (30 Minutes)

Item: Future Meetings Dates need to be set for the upcoming year: We will try to stay with morning meetings but hope that by moving the meeting by 30 minutes (from 9:00am to 9:30am), we will help those with longer commutes avoid major traffic delays. Locations – with four meetings per it is suggested that two meetings be held at MD Dept. of Transportation (MDOT) headquarters – as a sort of base. The other two meetings could be “off-site” elsewhere in the State. These locations can be set as we go along through the year.

Item: We should confirm if we want to have a Holiday Potluck at the next meeting in December. Julie Schafer of ODHH mentioned that last year’s potluck went very well and it could be a good way to end this calendar year together. Using the Deaf Shalom Zone space worked very well as they had a kitchen and ample facilities for the meeting and the luncheon. Lisa Jordan will confirm availability for this year and get back to Sam Lenox.

Approved Meeting Dates/Times:

- December 11, 2012 9:30am – 12:30pm (Holiday Celebration Potluck to Immediately Follow)
- March 5, 2013 (Snow Date March 19, 2013) 9:30am – 12:30pm
- June 18, 2013 9:30am – 12:30 pm

Short Break

Item: Meeting Minutes Review now that a quorum is established. Meeting minutes from June 2012 are approved as written.

Reports:

Behavioral Health Subcommittee – Carl Bailey Reporting. If everyone looks at the minutes that we just approved from June they describe to some extent what the subcommittee is up to. The Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) is working for integration and are looking at various models through the formation of workgroups. The 4 groups are: state and local / system linkages / home healthcare / data. Not only are there meeting of these 4 workgroups at least once a month, but DHMH has been hosting a large, combined group meeting as well – bringing all together along with the public for input, comments, and suggestions. One way to provide such input is online or to write in to the department. This Thurs., 9/13 is the final large group meeting at Spring Grove in the Rice Auditorium from 1:30 to 3:30pm. It will be an opportunity for the Dept. to provide the latest updates and recommendations. Based on all of this feedback, they will present a plan to the Governor and General Assembly. Our own subcommittee has attempted to attend as many of these meetings as possible. We have also developed three goals as a subcommittee – one of which is to have representation from the DHH community at our meetings. ODHH has done a good job trying to get the word out. There are two or three deaf professionals who do show up among others. Further, Sheppard Pratt is in the process of developing a behavioral health deaf unit on campus. We have also attempted, as a subcommittee, to give them feedback. That focus has been to encourage the standards to include cultural competency and we are working with them on that. We've noted that the community tends to be passive during this feedback process – then complain later. The subcommittee is writing a report to specifically outline how the “lumping” of deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind into one cultural competency focus will and won't work. To be clear -- this feedback will come from the council NOT ODHH.

Education Subcommittee – Cheri Dowling Reporting. The Education Subcommittee is struggling at this time. The bottom-line is that we need a bigger committee – our intent is to reach out to the community through entities such as the Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD), the Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD), the Hearing and Speech Agency in Baltimore (HASA), and the Universal Newborn Screen Council (UNSC) for increased subcommittee membership. That is our first goal. We also want to start discussion as to what kind of events need to happen for MD families. A final goal at this time is the actual implementation of these events and services. We know there were focus groups last year, and in the next few months we will have the results from those focus groups and can share that with the council. These were not just focused on the student – but on education for the entire family – more specifically families with deaf and hard of hearing children not getting the services they need. It has been suggested that a letter from our advisory council should go out to the other state committee so the “call for new membership” isn't coming from a single source.

Communication Access: New Subcommittee Chair, Lisa Jordan Reporting. First an acknowledgement of thanks to Shane Feldman for helping me take hold of the ropes for the subcommittee. There are actually several immediate goals for our subcommittee. There are three specific issues for focus in the upcoming year. One is Deafblind issues (in two parts) -- we suspect many people are not aware of Support Service Providers (SSP) nor the budget for those services. We want to help provide the networking for that. The second part of is awareness of available technologies. We want to education the general population. It is suggested that it can be the deafblind community members themselves facilitating the outreach and education. The next goal of the subcommittee is to address senior citizen housing. We really want to set something up for aging citizens specifically with hearing loss. We might open communication with other states as to how their success was attained and apply those methods for the future of a MD State program. This would be a new network specifically to help us with this goal. A Final Goal is the communications issues in our prison system. There is a lawsuit right now because there is no video relay and the TTY is expensive for inmates needing these technologies for

communication. We want to begin to advocate for these people. It is important for the prisoners to have equal access to the outside world.

Director's Report: Lisa H. Kornberg Reporting.

This will be a short report, given how much we've already covered during this meeting. We (ODHH) have gone through a space audit and will hopefully be getting the increase office space we so desperately need. There are currently three possible options:

- 1) A completely new location;
- 2) A new space in the same building on our own.
- 3) A new space in the same building wherein we would actually continue to share space and resources with the MD Dept. of Disabilities (MDOD) and The Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC).

It should be noted that the current lack of space and limited staffing often negatively affects and hurts our organizational ability – especially in communication. We've also just migrated to the new MD State Gmail and Google Apps system. Somethings are going right, and some not! Please feel free to “tap us on the shoulder” if you don't hear back from one of us in a 48 hour timeframe. Bottom line for us is to see our collaboration with the council and the work we all do really making a difference!

Meeting Adjourned.